

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP99/08532 filed November 6, 1999**

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please enter the following new claims.

- A4
11. A process for imparting lubricity to an aqueous drilling fluid used in geological exploration comprising:
    - (a) providing an aqueous drilling fluid;
    - (b) providing a lubricant component containing a partial glyceride of predominantly unsaturated fatty acids having from about 16 to 24 carbon atoms; and
    - (c) introducing the partial glyceride into the aqueous drilling fluid.
  12. The process of claim 11 wherein the partial glyceride has a pour point of up to 10°C.
  13. The process of claim 11 wherein the partial glyceride has a pour point of up to 0°C.
  14. The process of claim 11 wherein the partial glyceride is derived from tall oil fatty acid.
  15. The process of claim 11 wherein from about 0.5 to 5% by weight of the lubricant component, based on the weight of the drilling fluid, is introduced into the drilling fluid.
  16. The process of claim 11 wherein the drilling fluid contains in excess of 90% by weight, based on the weight of the drilling fluid, of water.
  17. The process of claim 11 wherein the drilling fluid contains in excess of 10% by weight, based on the weight of the drilling fluid, of a water-insoluble oil.
  18. The process of claim 11 wherein the partial glyceride contains less than about 15% by weight, based on the weight of partial glyceride, of triglycerides.
  19. The process of claim 11 wherein the partial glyceride contains less than about 5% by weight, based on the weight of partial glyceride, of triglycerides.
  20. The process of claim 11 wherein from about 1 to 3% by weight of the lubricant component, based on the weight of the drilling fluid, is introduced into the drilling

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fluid.

21. The process of claim 11 wherein the lubricant component further comprises an anionic surfactant.

A4 22. The process of claim 21 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sulfonates, sulfates, and mixtures thereof.

23. The process of claim 21 wherein the anionic surfactant and the partial glyceride are employed in a ratio by weight of from about 1:10 to 1:20.